

REPEALING THE ACT APPROVED MARCH 3, 1897, AND TO AMEND
THE ACT APPROVED DECEMBER 20, 1944, RELATING TO FEES
FOR TRANSCRIPTS OF CERTAIN RECORDS IN THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA

JULY 2, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MORSE, from the Committee on the District of Columbia,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 1371]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1371) to repeal the act approved March 3, 1897, and to amend the act approved December 20, 1944, relating to fees for transcripts of birth and death certificates in the District of Columbia, after full consideration, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment to the text of the bill is as follows:

Page 2, lines 3, 4, and 5, strike the words "inserting immediately after 'by the District of Columbia,' the following: 'including, but not limited to, transcripts of records of births and deaths,' ", and insert in lieu thereof the following:

striking out "such fees to be paid to the Collector of Taxes and" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "including, but not limited to, transcripts of records of births and deaths. No one transcript shall be made so as to apply to more than one birth or death. No fee shall be charged for certificates, copies or transcripts furnished the various departments of the United States Government for official purposes. Such fees shall not exceed the reasonably estimated cost of providing such copies, certificates, and transcripts, and shall be".

The amendment to the title is to make it more descriptive of the purposes of the bill.

The purpose of the bill, as amended, is to repeal the act approved March 3, 1897, and to amend the act approved December 20, 1944, relating to fees for transcripts of certain records in the District of Columbia, so as to require that the Commissioners of the District of Columbia in establishing fees to be charged for the reproduction of certificates, copies, and transcripts of official records, to set such fees at an amount that shall not exceed the reasonably estimated cost of

providing the reproductions. The legislation also places the issuance of copies of official records of births and deaths in the District of Columbia in the same category as the issuance of copies of other official records. Reproduction of records for Federal agencies without charge, now provided under existing law, would be retained in the measure as reported.

It was pointed out in the course of testimony taken in hearings that under existing law a fixed fee of 50 cents must be charged for the issuance of a copy of a birth or death record. In fiscal year 1958, according to a communication from the District government, the cost of reproducing the records of births and deaths exceeded the return to the District by way of fees, by a sum amounting to \$3,450.

It was further indicated to the committee that unless remedial action were taken by the Congress, it would be reasonable to expect this annual deficit to continue to grow, since the deficit for 1958 does not fully reflect the cost for a full year of recent salary and postal rate increase legislation.

It is the understanding of the committee that the fees to be set in accordance with the proposed legislation will reflect with reasonable accuracy the cost of providing the services to the public.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law in the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

(29 Stat. 695)

【That the commissioners of the District of Columbia be, and they are hereby authorized and directed to collect a fee of fifty cents, to be paid to the collector of taxes, and by him to be deposited in the United States Treasury to the credit of the District of Columbia for each transcript from the records of births, deaths, and marriages in the health department of said District. *Provided*, That no one transcript shall be made so as to apply to more than one birth, death or marriage: *And provided further*, That no fee shall be charged for transcripts furnished the various departments of the United States government for official purposes.

【SEC. 2. That this Act shall take effect thirty days after its passage.】

(58 Stat. 819)

(g) To fix, assess, and collect fees for copies of orders, regulations, permits, certificates, and transcripts of records furnished by the District of Columbia [such fees to be paid to the Collector of Taxes and] *including, but not limited to, transcripts of records of births and deaths. No one transcript shall be made so as to apply to more than one birth or death. No fee shall be charged for certificates, copies or transcripts furnished the various departments of the United States Government for official purposes. Such fees shall not exceed the reasonably estimated cost of providing such copies, certificates, and transcripts, and shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the District of Columbia.*